

FIGHTING THEM OVER.

What Our Veterans Have to Say About Their Old Campaigns.

FORT STEVENS AFFAIR.

A Brilliant Engagement, More Dramatic than Any Other Minor Contest.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Finally, it was decided that it was necessary to drive the enemy from these two points. Bidwell's (Third) Brigade, Second Division, was selected for the performance of this important task.

This brigade was made up of the 43d, 49th, 77th, and 123d N. Y., 61st Pa., and 7th Me. The majority of these organizations had campaigned with McClellan on the Peninsula, and had passed through the fires of Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, and Malvern Hill. Two of them had formed part of the famous "Light Brigade," and had taken a prominent part in the successful storming of Manassas in July, 1862.

The percentage of killed was unusually large. It is shown by the following comparison: The Official Records show that in the battles of Antietam, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, taken as a whole, the Union loss in killed was 16.3 per cent. of the aggregate of those killed and wounded, whereas in this engagement the killed in Bidwell's Brigade was 35.8 per cent. of the aggregate of casualties in the brigade.

We buried our dead upon the battlefield without form or ceremony. "No needless coffins inclosed their breasts nor in sheet nor in shroud were they laid out; but six days after the battle Secretary Stanton issued an order to the Military Governor of Washington directing him to "cause the Union soldiers who were killed in the recent defense of Washington to be carefully disinterred and reinterred in the Soldiers' National Cemetery, with suitable care and memorials to preserve their identity."

At a later date ground was appropriated on Seventh street beyond Fort Stevens, on what had been the battlefield, and a National Soldiers' Cemetery was laid out. The cemetery was in the hands of those who had not been claimed by their friends were laid to rest. This cemetery was set aside for the interment of those Union soldiers who were killed in front of Washington in the defense of the city, and the interment has been permitted there.

The citizens of Washington welcomed our arrival, and were very grateful to us for relieving them from impending disaster; but gratitude is an emotion that soon cools, and their hearts were chilled by the knowledge that their heroes sleep their last sleep in the little Battle Cemetery, their graves cared for and kept green by the National Government, and strewn with flowers each Memorial Day by their surviving comrades; but the residents of Washington have placed a tablet to attest their gratitude and reared a shaft to commemorate the deeds of the noble fallen, and to tell the visitor that these men gave their lives in the cause of the Union and in defense of the homes of the citizens of Washington.—S. A. McDONALD, 122d N. Y., Cleveland, O.

had been withdrawn at an early hour in the morning and that Gen. Early had abandoned the attempt to capture Washington, and with his whole army was well on the way back to "Old Fry's."

Late in the afternoon of the 13th Gen. Wright's command started in pursuit of the enemy. Not having at his disposal a force that could cope with Early's army, it was very evident that Gen. Wright would not make a very vigorous pursuit. We did, however, catch sight of the tail end of Early's army just as it was whisking across the Potomac, and our artillery fired a few shots to hasten the movement of the straggling column.

This ended Early's raid. The subsequent operations of Gen. Early in the Shenandoah Valley, his final disastrous overthrow by the Union troops under the command of the gallant Phil Sheridan, furnish material for an interesting chapter in history.

The total of the Union loss in front of Washington July 11 and 12 was 373 killed, 1,024 wounded, and 1,024 missing. The loss in our brigade during the few hours we were under fire was 52 killed and 93 wounded; total, 145; my regiment losing seven killed or died of wounds, and 19 more or less severely wounded; total, 26.

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FIRST COMPANY.

Capt. Jacob Ammen's Little Band Signed to Go to the War on April 13.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: A word as to the first company. I have always claimed that Ripley organized the first company for the suppression of the rebellion. On April 13, 1861, a meeting of the local citizens was held at the residence of my father, and the expression of their views in regard to the firing upon Fort Sumter, and while this meeting was in progress the operator took from the wires the announcement that Fort Sumter had surrendered. This announcement was heard by the meeting by A. E. Devore, who walked half-way up the aisle and read the dispatch.

The meeting adjourned at once to Armstrong's Hall, for the purpose of organizing a military company and tendering ourselves to William Dennison, Governor of Ohio. At this meeting I met A. E. Devore, as per agreement. Capt. Jacob Ammen had not been at the citizens' meeting, and was notified to be at the evening meeting; that he would be elected Captain of the company. A. S. Liggett was the first to sign the company, and he was elected first lieutenant, and the roll was soon filled. The election of officers resulted: Capt. Jacob Ammen; First Lieut., A. E. Devore; Second Lieut., E. M. Carey; and W. M. R. Deegan as Third Lieutenant.

On the following day, April 14, Capt. Ammen was elected to the command of the company to tender the company to the Governor, reaching there by noon on the 15th, by which time the President had issued his call for 75,000 troops, and we were accepted. On his return a few days were given us to making up our business before going into camp. We finally turned up at Camp Jackson, Columbus. As we were passing from the boat to the Broadway Hotel for breakfast, those guests were, a gentleman stepped alongside of Capt. Ammen and said: "I will give you \$100.00 if you will take your company home and give my company your place."

Had the Captain waited till the 19th inst. we should not have gotten within the call, and been left out in the cold. That we were not a party of 100 men was no fault of ours, for we were in Camp Jackson before either of those regiments was organized.

The answer was, "The 122d N. Y." "The General desires me to say that you shall put three companies, under charge of a trusty officer, on skirmish-line three paces apart."

Still we were unconscious of what was coming, as we could see a line out in front of us, and of course thought we were to relieve them.

We did not discover our mistake until after we had advanced to the position that lay before us. Then we saw the General and staff ride up on a knoll and the stars and bars, and knew for a certainty that we were "in it."

This was one of the most hotly-contested skirmishes that I was ever in in my three years of service. When we were within 200 yards of these earthworks they were in them, and then the fun for them, but death for us began. Two thousand rebels popped away at their leisure over their intrenchments at us, and we had 100 yards to go before the shelter of an old road could be reached. We finally got to the road. Our ammunition was exhausted. Some one said, "Boys, here comes the relief," which consisted of the 121st N. Y., 119th Pa., 5th Wis., and 6th Me.

This was as the shadows of night were spreading their mantle. When the boys reached the road over it went, and for the works. Some the top of the rebel works were one sheet of flame. The fire was returned, and over the works went the line of our rifles. Pistol-shots, close musket blows, and cursing, swearing and cheering for a brief period, and all was quiet. The result was 1,600 prisoners, 2,000 stand-of-arms and four pieces of artillery for us. I saw 31 of the 6th Me. buried in one grave inside the works next morning. I understood at the time that our force consisted of 1,500 men.

PICKET SHOTS.

From Alert Companies All Along the Line.

Concerning the "Dionemores." A comrade writes in answer to an inquiry about the "Dionemores" that the Rev. Dr. Palmer, New York Methodist Conference, is a survivor. The company was composed of theological students. "It was nearly annihilated at the storming of Fort Wagner. Col. Perry commanded the regiment. He was a D. D., and the regiment was known as "Perry's Saints."

When we reached the Kentucky River, 15 miles from Lexington, it was 5 o'clock p. m., and we were very glad to take off our boots and bathe our blistered feet. We remained there until about sunset, getting supper. A courier came from Richmond, 10 miles away, with the news that Kirby Smith's army was near there, and the citizens were afraid that he would burn the town. Col. Holloway owned a large plantation near the town, and he was fearful that his and his friends property would be destroyed.

We started on the double-quick; we ran and walked and lay down and rested by spells; threw away our blankets, blouses, and a part of our rations, retaining guns and ammunition. Men fell down, utterly exhausted, and were left by the roadside. We arrived in Richmond at 1 o'clock a. m., Sunday morning. There were only 17 men in my company and one commissioned officer who were present when we arrived, out of the 86 that started; and the other companies were in like condition. The rest of the command had been scattered in all directions. After putting out pickets we lay down on the pavement, in the streets, in yards—anywhere to stretch out our tired limbs—and went to sleep. I did not awaken until the sun was shining in my face that beautiful Sabbath morning.

During the night the tired-out men came into town, and the teamsters came in with the wagons, bringing our blankets and blouses, which they had picked up. Now I think that there were five or six regiments in that command; in fact, all of Gen. Canby's Brigade, and I think to Mr. Canby's Brigade, and I think to Mr. Canby's Brigade, and I think to Mr. Canby's Brigade.

Thomas W. Baird, Co. K, 5th Conn. National Home Guards, writes: "Comrade J. W. Holcomb, in your issue of March 29, is after Thomas W. Baird with a sharp stick, in regard to an article published or sent by him for the issue of Oct. 26, relating how a Yankee of the 5th Conn. had out 11 rebels during the battle of Gettysburg. My brigade at that time was composed of the flower of the army—the old 28th N. Y., 4th Pa., and 5th Conn. The 10th Me. joined the old brigade later on, under Pap Williams. Our marches through Maryland and Virginia tell their own story."

W. K. Copeland, Butler, Ind., writes: "I wish to correct N. A. Pinney in some of his statements in regard to the 104th Ohio, especially that the regiment was in support of the 6th Ohio battery at the battle of Franklin, Tenn. The 104th lay to the right of the 6th Ohio battery, and was placed on the left of the pike, the 100th Ohio between the guns of the 6th Ohio battery, and the 16th Ky. lay in rear of the battery and 104th Ohio. The 100th Ohio, 104th Ohio and 16th Ky. were the First Brigade, Third Division, Twenty-third Corps, commanded by Gen. W. R. Rorer. "Now, as to Old Town Creek, the comrade is very much mistaken, for if he has any recollection of the charge and capture of those four guns he will have to give that credit to the 100th Ohio, for we were in the attack on that day, and captured the guns about 240 prisoners. The 100th was there or thereabouts, and got our share of credit of putting down the rebellion, if not to capture all the Confederate battle-flags."

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Suppose our dear old Uncle Samuel should have to soldier out at this rate in proportion to the injury done his vast host of maintained nephews, what high and lofty and continuous kicking our stay-at-home coppersheads would do? Now, let some one who can, add to this the value of the service rendered, and tell us what pension a disabled recipient would be entitled to. Suppose this bill should be presented to our dear old Uncle multiplied by all the disabled, and doubly multiplied by the number slain. Add to this the difference between paper wages and gold for the entire army, compared with a fair rate of interest to date, and the old gentleman would want more shekels than our present valuation would bring if sold under the hammer. I believe our dear old relative would be ashamed of past conduct, and drop upon his knees and beg as he did in the days of old when he was a boy, and say, "Jas. Harkam, Sergeant, Co. F, 22d Ind. I feel greatly relieved. I have a good appetite, my bowels move regularly and I am not bothered any more with that oppressive feeling. It has also cured the rheumatism from which I occasionally suffered."

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When we reached the Kentucky River, 15 miles from Lexington, it was 5 o'clock p. m., and we were very glad to take off our boots and bathe our blistered feet. We remained there until about sunset, getting supper. A courier came from Richmond, 10 miles away, with the news that Kirby Smith's army was near there, and the citizens were afraid that he would burn the town. Col. Holloway owned a large plantation near the town, and he was fearful that his and his friends property would be destroyed.

We started on the double-quick; we ran and walked and lay down and rested by spells; threw away our blankets, blouses, and a part of our rations, retaining guns and ammunition. Men fell down, utterly exhausted, and were left by the roadside. We arrived in Richmond at 1 o'clock a. m., Sunday morning. There were only 17 men in my company and one commissioned officer who were present when we arrived, out of the 86 that started; and the other companies were in like condition. The rest of the command had been scattered in all directions. After putting out pickets we lay down on the pavement, in the streets, in yards—anywhere to stretch out our tired limbs—and went to sleep. I did not awaken until the sun was shining in my face that beautiful Sabbath morning.

During the night the tired-out men came into town, and the teamsters came in with the wagons, bringing our blankets and blouses, which they had picked up. Now I think that there were five or six regiments in that command; in fact, all of Gen. Canby's Brigade, and I think to Mr. Canby's Brigade, and I think to Mr. Canby's Brigade, and I think to Mr. Canby's Brigade.

Thomas W. Baird, Co. K, 5th Conn. National Home Guards, writes: "Comrade J. W. Holcomb, in your issue of March 29, is after Thomas W. Baird with a sharp stick, in regard to an article published or sent by him for the issue of Oct. 26, relating how a Yankee of the 5th Conn. had out 11 rebels during the battle of Gettysburg. My brigade at that time was composed of the flower of the army—the old 28th N. Y., 4th Pa., and 5th Conn. The 10th Me. joined the old brigade later on, under Pap Williams. Our marches through Maryland and Virginia tell their own story."

W. K. Copeland, Butler, Ind., writes: "I wish to correct N. A. Pinney in some of his statements in regard to the 104th Ohio, especially that the regiment was in support of the 6th Ohio battery at the battle of Franklin, Tenn. The 104th lay to the right of the 6th Ohio battery, and was placed on the left of the pike, the 100th Ohio between the guns of the 6th Ohio battery, and the 16th Ky. lay in rear of the battery and 104th Ohio. The 100th Ohio, 104th Ohio and 16th Ky. were the First Brigade, Third Division, Twenty-third Corps, commanded by Gen. W. R. Rorer. "Now, as to Old Town Creek, the comrade is very much mistaken, for if he has any recollection of the charge and capture of those four guns he will have to give that credit to the 100th Ohio, for we were in the attack on that day, and captured the guns about 240 prisoners. The 100th was there or thereabouts, and got our share of credit of putting down the rebellion, if not to capture all the Confederate battle-flags."

W. H. Surles, 2d Ohio, East Liverpool, O., says Col. Field has omitted the names of Gen. Abalomb Baird, commanding First Division, Fourteenth Corps, at the battle of Chickamauga, and Gen. R. W. Johnson, commanding First Division, 15th Ohio, at the battle of Gettysburg. Gen. Baird, I think, is now living in Washington, D. C., and Gen. Johnson in the West."

O. S. Rawley, Berwyn, N. Y., does not see anything new in the Christian Herald of March 7, 1894. "Three arbitrators were engaged on Feb. 14 in assessing the sum which should be awarded a man residing at Lancaster, Pa., as compensation for the loss of an arm. The arm was lost by the breaking of a cable, and after hearing the evidence the arbitrators awarded the man \$30,000, which the Traction Company thought rather high. But who would run the risk and bear the suffering for double the amount?"

Suppose our dear old Uncle Samuel should have to soldier out at this rate in proportion to the injury done his vast host of maintained nephews, what high and lofty and continuous kicking our stay-at-home coppersheads would do? Now, let some one who can, add to this the value of the service rendered, and tell us what pension a disabled recipient would be entitled to. Suppose this bill should be presented to our dear old Uncle multiplied by all the disabled, and doubly multiplied by the number slain. Add to this the difference between paper wages and gold for the entire army, compared with a fair rate of interest to date, and the old gentleman would want more shekels than our present valuation would bring if sold under the hammer. I believe our dear old relative would be ashamed of past conduct, and drop upon his knees and beg as he did in the days of old when he was a boy, and say, "Jas. Harkam, Sergeant, Co. F, 22d Ind. I feel greatly relieved. I have a good appetite, my bowels move regularly and I am not bothered any more with that oppressive feeling. It has also cured the rheumatism from which I occasionally suffered."

Only local agents sell this grand Vitalizer; you do not find it in drug-stores. If there is no agency in your neighborhood, you have simply to address Dr. Peter Fahr